

CLAIMS

1. A rigid balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

a second skin portion joined to said first skin

5 portion at a double seam defining a channel extending
about the periphery of the first and second skin
portions;

a compartment disposed between said first and
second portions;

10 at least one rod member disposed within said
channel, said rod member having opposed ends;

at least one connector secured to at least one of
said opposing rod ends to hold said rod member in said
channel; and

15 a valve extending into the compartment through
which gas may be inserted.

2. The balloon of claim 1, wherein at least one of
said first and second skin portions is made from polyethylene
terephthalate.

20 3. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said at least one
rod member is made from fiberglass.

4. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said connector is a
brass fitting.

5. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said first and second skin portions for a balloon having a non-spherical shape.

6. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said compartment is
5 filled with helium.

7. A rigid balloon comprising:
a first skin portion;
a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a double seam defining a channel extending
10 about the periphery of the first and second skin portions;
a compartment disposed between said first and second portions;
at least one rod member disposed within said
15 channel, said rod member having opposed ends; and
at least one connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends.

8. The balloon of claim 7 further comprising a valve extending into the compartment through which gas may be
20 inserted.

9. The balloon of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second skin portions is made from polyethylene terephthalate.

10. The balloon of claim 7, wherein said compartment is filled with helium.

11. A rigid helium balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

5 a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a double seam about their periphery, the double seam defining a channel extending about the periphery of the first and second skin portions;

a helium compartment disposed between said first
10 and second portions;

at least one rod member disposed within said channel, said rod member having opposed ends;

at least one connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends to hold said rod member in said
15 channel; and

a valve extending into the compartment through which gas may be inserted.

12. A rigid helium balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

20 a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a first peripheral seam and at a second peripheral seam, said second peripheral seam being spaced from said first peripheral seam;

a helium compartment disposed between said first and second skin members;

a channel portion defined between said first peripheral seam and said second peripheral seam, said channel portion
5 having at least two rod apertures;

at least one rod member disposed within said channel portion, said rod member having opposing ends; and

a connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends;

10 wherein said first and second skin portions are made from polyethylene terephthalate.